textile mill is closed. I have given a notice in this regard....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please let him speak.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, this issue is about two Indian nationals who are undergoing imprisonment in Iraqi jail. These two Indian nationals, namely, Shri Mumoidueen Ahmed Kallayi and Shri Aziz Pathenpuraijid, who are from Kerala, had been doing fishing work in Kuwait. They had been working under somebody. On 29th April, 1996 while fishing they happened to cross the sea waters of Iraq and they were arrested. Naturally, the Iraq has the reason to do so because they have illegally traversed upon their (Iraqi) land. They were taken to the Court and the Court has convicted them six year's imprisonment. And so, they are undergoing imprisonment.

As a matter of fact, they did it without any intention. they had no intention to violate any of the law prevailing there. I have already informed the matter to the hon. Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister also.

Sir, this is a very serious matter. They are the bread winners of two families and are now undergoing imprisonment in Abu Ghereib Jail , near Bhagdad. That is as per the letter which I have received from the External Affairs Ministry. Now at present, they are undergoing imprisonment in Iraqi Jail.

Sir, this is very sorry that whenever our Indians are in trouble, we are not taking any interest in this regard on compassionate consideration.

As these two Indian nationals have not committed any crime intentionally, I would request the Government to take up the matter with the Iraqi authorities to get them released.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (BALIA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I am not requesting you on any specific issue. Whatever questions have been raised since 12 o'clock today whether these relate to security of the country, or corruption or division of various states, I shall say if my words have any effect, that there has been blood-shed many times in the country to capture Delhi. How long this blood-shed will continue? How long shall we continue raising slogans for winning votes by state governments? How long such incidents will continue to recur, I do not want to debate on it, whether Uttarakhand will be formed on not. Smaller states should be formed, I also want that, but is our country to-day in such a position that we can divide states. Are we today in a position to create small states? How much fury was created and blood was shed for formation of states on linguistic basis, even Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and Sardar Patel were at the helm of affairs in the Central Government. I do not know what is the state of affairs in the country today. The cabinet might have given a serious thought to it before taking a decision about it. Declaration in regard to formation of Uttarakhand just prior to elections, but when it will be made applicable, prior I am not aware of it. Then Jharkhand will be formed. Thereafter will be the turn of Gorkhaland and Bodoland. Such demands are forthcoming from 15-16 corners. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, this country will burn in such demands. I have to request you to call all these leaders and advise them to have some limits and propriety in mind, and that they should not play with the future of the country, just for the sake of wining some votes for the coming elections. I do not say this to any one individual or party, but I am in full agreement with what our naval chief has remarked. But could he not say so in his report to the Defence Ministry? Will such things be brought in public debate? The way in which incidents of genocide are having committed, and now one of our friends was saying, whether it is correct or not, I do not know, but will such things be discussed daily here, is the Parliament meant for it? Is the entire weakness of the country to be discussed here? Has this country no strength or capacity? Can we people not utter even two words to protect our country from division, disintegration or destruction?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I shall request you to call a meeting of all the leaders and ensure observance of some limitations and propriety, so that we may be in a position to tell to the world that our country possesses strength, capability and we have capacity to work unitedly.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House Stands Adjourned Till 2.15 P.M.

13.16 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then Adjourned for Lunch till Fifteen Minutes Past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.22 hrs.

The Lok Sabha Re-assembled after Lunch at Twenty-two Minutes Past Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

[English]

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK (BOLANGIR): Sir, I would like to make one request. Tomorrow, during Zero Hour you please allow the Members of Orissa to raise the issues regarding Orissa.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We will decide it tomorrow.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALA (PANNONI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, please continue zero hour to-day, so that we may be able to speak on the notice given by us, otherwise backlog would continue to pile up.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will be allowed to accumulate, we shall allow all tomorrow, please worry not.

14.23 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

(i) Need to provide financial assistance to State Government of U.P. for providing adequate relief to the people affected by floods in Khurja Parliamentary Constituency.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (KHURJA): Sir, in my parliamentary constituency, problem of serious flood situation due to the Yamuna river in Dadri, Sikandrabad and Jewar assembly constituencies still persists. Not only that, even appropriate relief measures are not being taken nor required commodities being made available to the affected families. Now the situation has come to a point where in various villages falling in the above mentioned assembly constituencies, water logging has started on a big scale. I have visited the flood affected areas during the last few days and I have requested the officials of the irrigation department to take all possible steps for solving the grave problem being faced by the people in those areas. But the trouble is that senior officials of the irrigation department are claiming that the situation is under control and everything is alright, whereas the reality is just the opposite of it.

Hence, I request the Central Govt. to provide adequate financial help to the U.P. Govt. for arranging relief measures and necessary commodities for the flood affected people in villages in Dadri, Sikandrabad and Jewar assembly constituencies in my Khurja Parliamentary constituency suffering due to heavy floods in the Yamuna river, and thereafter to provide appropriate compensation to the flood affected families, and also to direct that stern action should be taken immediately against the officials of the irrigation department, who are working carelessly and sluggishly without paying due attention to the enormity and bigness of the problem faced by the people there.

[English]

(ii) Need for repair of Dam on Ganga between Kajarganj and Nardoli in Etah district, U.P.

[Translation]

DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH 'SHAKYA' (ETAH): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I want to draw the attention of the irrigation minister to an urgent matter of public importance. I have been elected to this House from the Etah Parliamentary constituency. The Ganga river flows on the eastern side of my constituency, as a result of which many villages are adversely affected every year on account of floods in the river Ganga. A dam was constructed by the Govt. to check flood water, from Kajarganj to Nardoli, which has broken down at some places during the years causing heavy loss of life and property during the last two years.

I request the Hon. Minister to ensure that the dam is repaired and made fit as it was before, so that it may discharge its function properly.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (VIDISHA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, the Hon. Minister of Agriculture is present here. So, he should reply, as the flood situation is serious.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Is the Agriculture Minister prepared to say something. He may say in one minute.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (OTHER THAN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRY DEPARTMENT) SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, the issue raised by the Hon. Minister in regard to flood situation and the problems created by it has engaged our attention also and I have talked about it to the Governor's advisor Shri Jain. U.P. Govt. has got the money of the calamity Relief Fund and with it the Govt. is managing the problem. If they required more money, they may send a memorandum to us. On receipt of such a Memorandum we shall send our Central team there, on that basis we shall act according to the report of that team for supplying more aid.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, the floods are furious. It will be in the fitness of things if Bihar is also covered in the reply.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the floods affect all, but 377 shall cover all, does it happen so?

[English]

(iii) Need for Effective Steps to Eradicate Poverty in Kalahandi-Bolangir area in Orissa.

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA (PURI): Sir, I wish to invite the attention of this august House to the poverty-stricken and starvation-ridden tribal pockets in Kalahandi-Bolangir-Korgput areas of Orissa. Poverty is so deep-rooted there, that every year, a number of starvation deaths are reported from this area. For months together, the people have no foodgrains to eat, and they have to depend on crushed mango seeds.

A special programme for accelerated development of these identified specially backward areas costing around Rs. 4557.30 crore was laid down, at the instance of the